

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, and 14 being independent. Claims 12-14 have been added by this amendment, which do not add any new subject matter.

Interview Summary

Applicants' representative would like to thank the Primary Examiner, Jingge Wu, for the personal interview that was conducted on February 26, 2004. During the personal interview, Applicants discussed the patentable features of the pending claims in view of the cited art and proposed amendments to the claims. Based on the discussion during the interview, the Examiner stated that the proposed claims appear to overcome the rejections of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 3-8 and 10-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at

least the reasons detailed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be considered allowable.

Information Disclosure Statement

Information Disclosure Statements and accompanying PTO-1449 forms were filed on December 7, 2000, March 15, 2001, March 5, 2002, and December 16, 2002. There is presently no indication that the Examiner considered the documents identified in the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on March 15, 2001. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the documents identified in that Information Disclosure Statements by initialing the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialed forms to the undersigned.

Drawings

Applicants have amended Fig. 1 in an effort to correct a minor typographical error. Namely, reference label 33, which designates the color converter, has been changed to 32.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kagawa et al.* (US Patent 5,917,959). This

rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

The claims have been amended by replacing "characteristics" with "characteristic," in an effort to correct a minor informality. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims, nor was it made in view of any prior art.

Claims 3, 4, and 10 have been amended into independent form. Claim 3 includes the subject matter of claim 1; claim 4 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 2; and claim 10 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 9. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate claims 3, 4, and 10 as being allowed.

Regarding independent claim 1, as discussed above, the Examiner agreed that the amendment to independent overcomes the rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Dependent claims 2, 9, and new claim 12 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Lastly, new independent claims 13 and 14 should be considered allowable at least because the cited art fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements including: an adjuster for a user to designate an adjustment value of at least one of six color

components of red, green, blue, yellow, cyan and magenta of the first image, whereby the color converter as recited in claim 13 converts each hue of the color components of the first image based on an adjustment value without substantially effecting another one of six color components, and the color converter as recited in claim 14 converts a hue of only one of the color components of the first image based on the adjustment value.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. No. 51,011) at the telephone number below, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

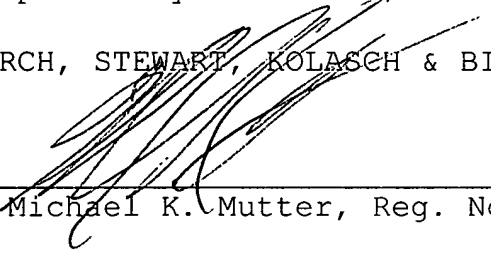
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

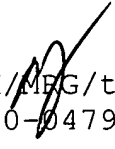
Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: PTO 1449 Forms
Replacement Drawing